

VLR-9/17/74 NRHP-10/9/74

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Bedford
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Hope Dawn

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hope Dawn

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .4 mile west of James River, west side of Route 761, 1.7 miles northeast of intersection of Route 761 and Route 645.

CITY OR TOWN: (Big Island vicinity) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Bedford CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>summer residence</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: (1)
Dual Ownership - William Russell Chambers (see continuation sheet)

STREET AND NUMBER:
2109 Link Road

CITY OR TOWN: Lynchburg STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Bedford County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Bedford STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)

TITLE OF SURVEY: (1)
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey (see continuation sheet)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hope Dawn is a finely crafted Federal-style story-and-a-half brick farmhouse with a three-bay main block and a one-bay wing on its south end. The walls are laid in Flemish bond with scattered glazed headers and penciled joints. They are supported on foundations of uncoursed quarried stone. The walls are capped with a brick cornice consisting of four corbeled courses of headers. In contrast to the main section, the wing has a simple wooden box cornice. Interior end chimneys with corbeled caps flank the main section with the south chimney serving the wing as well. The gable roof, originally covered with rounded wooden shakes, is now sheathed with standing-seam sheet metal.

The main section's first-floor window openings have nine-over-nine sash while the wing sash is six-over-nine. The six-over-six dormer windows on the facade are pedimented and are ornamented with dentil moldings. The rear dormers omit the dentils. The dormers originally had exposed diagonal boarded cheeks, however the cheeks are now covered with wooden shingles. The main entrance has a round arch transom with reeded soffit and simple spoke tracery. Turned corner blocks mark the apex and spring points of the arch. The present glass-pane front door replaces the original paneled door. Window and exterior door sills are of soapstone. Framing the main entrance is a handsome tetrastyle pedimented portico on a stone foundation. The pediment is supported on chamfered wooden posts with lamb's tongue finish set on railing-height square pedestals. The present railings date from a 1960's restoration with their design based on traces of the original railings found mortised into the pedestals. The wing is fronted by a shed porch with similar posts and railings. At one time the wing's steps were under the porch, however they have been restored to their original location leading straight from the porch's center bay. The simple flight of wooden steps on the rear of the main section is modern.

The main section presently has a center hall, although the plan's original configuration probably consisted of a single partition located slightly to the south of the front door, giving the house a hall-parlor plan. The present arched openings in the hall are modern and are based on the front entrance. Throughout the first floor are molded chair rails and baseboards. The interior enframing of the main entrance is ornamented with a molded keystone. Before restoration, the first floor ceilings were covered with tongue-and-groove sheathing dating from around 1900. When it was removed, the ceiling joists were cleaned and left exposed as they were finely dressed with no indication that they were intended to be covered. The house's stair is somewhat awkwardly located in the northwest corner of the south room. It ascends for three steps to a paneled door, then winds to an eastern direction where it ascends for the rest of its length in a straight run between partitions. A similar, but more simple stair serves the wing.

An outstanding feature of the interior is its fine mantels. The delicate Federal mantel in the north room has paired colonettes with spiral reeding supporting an entablature with projecting end and center panels. On each of the panels in the frieze are reeded paterae. The cornice has cable and dentil moldings, and the liner molding has diagonal reeding. The south room's mantel has reeded pilasters, unornamented frieze panels, and

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dentiled cornice. Above the mantel is a wooden cupboard set in the chimney breast. The mantel originally was not centered on the chimney breast and was moved slightly to the west during the restoration. It was at this time that an Indianhead penny, dated 1861, was found inside the chimney's flue, suggesting that this may have been a hiding place for valuables during the War Between the States. The mantel in the first-floor wing room has a molded surround with a simple entablature and shelf. The second-floor north room mantel has a simple architrave surround with deep frieze and narrow molded cornice. The original mantel in the opposite room was lost, and the present mantel is a copy of that in the north room.

Prior to the restoration, the second-floor rooms were covered with tongue-and-groove sheathing. When this was removed, roughly-finished horizontal boards were found underneath. This boarding could not be preserved so the walls were plastered. Also, the partition between the hall and the north room was shifted slightly to the north to provide room for a bath.

The basement of the wing originally served as the kitchen as evidenced by its large fireplace and pothooks. The floor, probably originally packed earth, was brick paved during the restoration. The south room of the main section had its floor excavated a foot to give a ceiling height of seven feet. During this process, a number of flagstones were found beneath the later cement floor. These stones were used to pave the areaway under the wing porch. The area under the north room is used for storage and has a height of only three feet.

Hope Dawn's grounds contain several outbuildings. To the south of the house is an old stone and brick stable that has been remodeled into a guesthouse. A simple stone structure southwest of the house has served variously as a distillery and a chicken house. The frame office to the northwest of the house was originally in the yard of an old tavern in Amherst Court House, and was moved to its present site in the late 1950's. Enclosing the house's front yard is a handsome stone wall which runs along the trace of the old Bethel turnpike. Stone gateposts with chiseled pyramidal caps mark the entrance to the front walk. A stone mounting block remains nearby. The entire complex is in a beautiful pastoral setting with dramatic views of surrounding fields, woodlands and mountains.

ACL

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian: | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | <u>county history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>rural life</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This compact early-nineteenth-century farmhouse is an elegantly refined and excellently preserved example of Piedmont Virginia rural architecture. Its finely crafted details and balanced proportions illustrate the high quality of the building arts prevalent in relatively remote areas of the state. In its unspoiled pastoral setting with the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains as a backdrop, Hope Dawn forms a memorable image of rural life in old Virginia.

Hope Dawn originally was the country home of Dr. Howell Davies (1795- before 1858), a noted Lynchburg druggist. Davies was the grandson of Nicholas Davies, a native of Wales who settled in Henrico County, Virginia in 1730, and later moved to Bedford County where he settled on lands patented by him between 1771 and 1783. It was on part of this land, located west of Lynchburg on the south side of the James River, that Howell Davies built the present house. The exact construction date has not been documented, but the Bedford County land books list Howell Davies as owning 1200 acres on the James from 1827 to 1841. An 1839 deed shows that Davies mortgaged his 1200 acres as well as one lot on Cocke Street (present day Fifth Street) in Lynchburg to secure payment of a debt. Davies maintained his town residence on Cocke Street, and presumably his pharmacy establishment was in the same building.

Davies is remembered in Lynchburg not only as a prominent druggist, but as the owner of "Blind Billy," a famous Negro slave who played the fife. "Blind Billy" was later purchased by the townspeople of Lynchburg who gave him his freedom. He is buried in the historic Old City Cemetery.

Davies paid back his mortgage in 1839 and later that same year he sold 723 acres of his Bedford County property including "the residence of the land" to James A. Meriweather. In 1843 Meriweather sold 271 acres of this property". . .south of Bethel Road . . .with appurtenances" to William Steen. The property remained in Steen's ownership until 1874 when 141 acres, described as being on the James River and Kanawha Canal and Bethel Road, and known as the "Mansion House tract," was purchased by Emily S. Lecky. It was during the Lecky ownership (1874-1924) that the first mention of the property's name, "Hope Dawn" appeared. In 1956 Hope Dawn was purchased from Martin Johnson by Mrs. Samuel Allen Chambers, who in 1968 deeded it to her twin sons, Samuel Allen, Jr. and William Russell Chambers, the present owners. The Chambers family undertook an extensive restoration of the property in the 1960's.

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The Bethel Road mentioned in early deeds is preserved in a short section in front of the house as a private drive. This early stage road is said to have been used on occasions by Thomas Jefferson as a shortcut from Monticello to his Bedford County retreat, Poplar Forest.

M.T.P.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ackerley, Mary D. and Parker, E. J., Our Kin, Genealogies etc..., Bedford, 1930, pp. 347, 393, 396.

Bedford County, Deed Books, (1839) Deed Book 27, p. 405; (1839) Deed Book 28, pp. 41, 46, 48, 66; (1843) Deed Book 30, p. 394; (1874) Deed Book 46, p. 390.

Bedford County Land Books, 1827-1841.

Cabell, Margaret, Sketches and Recollections of Lynchburg by one of its Oldest Inhabitants, Richmond, 1858, pp. 34, 113.

Gilmer Map of Bedford County, 1864, Chief Engineer's Office, DNV.

Otey, Elizabeth Lewis, The Lewis, Harrison, Bezer, Schoolfield Ancestry, Lynchburg, 1972, p. 48.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 30' 17"	79° 14' 16"				
NE	37° 30' 17"	79° 13' 27"				
SE	37° 29' 42"	79° 13' 27"				
SW	37° 29' 42"	79° 14' 16"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **225 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission** DATE: **July, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond,** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Title _____
Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register
Date _____

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9.

Parker, Lula J., The History of Bedford County, Va., Bicentennial Edition, 1754-1954, Bedford, 1954, p. 112.
Tyler's Quarterly, Vol. 8, pp. 140-141.

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4. Owner of Property

- (2) Samuel Allen Chambers, Jr.
1237 31st Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. (Code: 11)

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

- (2) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1969 Federal

Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. (Code: 11)

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangles (scale:1:24000)
 Tobacco Row Mountain, Va. 1963/
 Lynchburg, Va. 1963

HOPE DAWN
 Latitude
 NW 37° 30' 17"
 NE 37° 30' 17"
 SE 37° 29' 42"
 SW 37° 29' 42"

Longitude
 79° 14' 16"
 79° 13' 27"
 79° 13' 27"
 79° 14' 16"

761
 37° 30' 17"
 HOPE DAWN
 37° 29' 42"

645

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangles (scale:1:24000)
 Lynchburg, Va. 1963/
 Tobacco Row Mountain, Va. 1963

HOPE DAWN
 Latitude
 NW 37° 30' 17"

Longitude
 79° 14' 16"

